

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract as shown on the attached sheet (including a sheet with a clean copies of the revised Abstract and a sheet showing the changes with brackets).

REMARKS

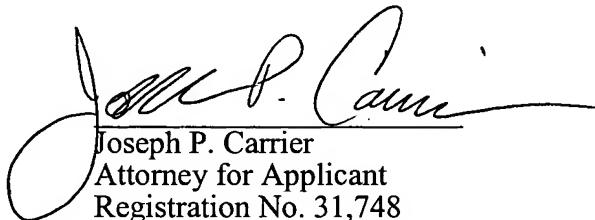
Upon entry of the present Preliminary Amendment-A the claims in the application are claims 1-28 and 44-72, of which claims 1, 11, 12, 26, 44 and 45 are independent.

The specification, claims and Abstract have been amended to overcome minor informalities therein, and to generally present more proper idiomatic English. Also, the claims are amended to eliminate all multiple dependencies therein, to cancel claims 29-43 and substitute new claims 57-71 in place thereof, and to present new claim 72 which is similar to claim 47, but depends from claim 45 rather than claim 44.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the above amendments are fully supported by the original application, and that no new matter is added by the amendments.

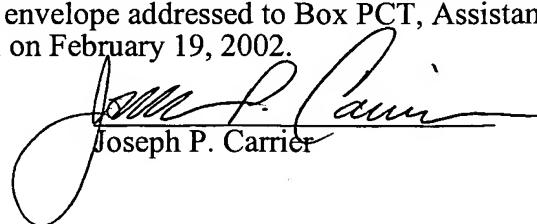
Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail Certificate No. ET986050964US in an envelope addressed to Box PCT, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 19, 2002.

  
Joseph P. Carrier